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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/119 W
----------067712 040836Z /15
R 030950Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4795
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 06255

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDIP, OVIP, ETRD, PDEV, CU, AR, VE, SP
SUBJECT: SUAREZ TO VISIT CUBA, ARGENTINA, VENEZUELA

REF: HAVANA 1452 NOTAL

1. SPANISH PRIME MINISTER ADOLFO SUAREZ IS TO VISIT NOT ONLY CUBA BUT ARGENTINA AND VENEZUELA NEXT SEPTEMBER. THE RECENT COMMUNIQUE ON THE SUBJECT MENTIONED ONLY THE FIRST TWO COUNTRIES, AN MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US, BECAUSE VENEZUELA HAS NOT YET SIGNALLED ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE EXACT DATES (THE TRIP WAS ORIGINALLY TO HAVE BEEN MADE NOW).

2. ACCORDING TO THAT SAME OFFICIAL (BERMEJO, THE MFA'S NUMBER TWO FOR LATIN AMERICA), THE MIX OF THE THREE COUNTRIES NOT ONLY REPRESENTS AN IDEOLOGICAL BLEND, BUT SIGNALS WHAT IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TRIP, FOR THE THREE COUNTRIES WERE THE BIGGEST MARKETS FOR SPANISH EXPORTS TO LATIN AMERICA LAST YEAR (IN ORDER, VENEZUELA, CUBA, ARGENTINA). SPAIN'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONS WITH SPANISH AMERICA ARE OF COURSE ANOTHER FACTOR, BERMEJO SAID.

3. WE DOUBT SPANISH DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE

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OF MUCH SIGNIFICANCE IN THE TRIP, WHICH AS NOTED INCLUDES AN IDEOLOGICAL MIX. SUAREZ MIGHT FIGURE HIS RECEPTION IN HAVANA WOULD DO NO HARM TO HIS DEMOCRATIC/ PROGRESSIVE CREDENTIALS AND KEEP GONZALEZ AND THE SOCIAL- ISTS FROM STAKING OUT SOME SORT OF MONOPOLY ON THE HAVANA LINK, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGN THAT ANYTHING LIKE THAT LATTER WAS HAPPENING, AND THE SOCIALISTS (WHO ARE NOT UNQUESTIONING FANS OF CASTRO'S REGIME) HAVE MADE NO EFFORT TO CLAIM A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP. FOR THAT MATTER, FRANCO SPAIN ALSO MAINTAINED THE FULL SET OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA, DESPITE THE OAS STAND AND OUR OCCASIONAL REPRESENTATIONS; AND IT WOULD BE DOMESTICALLY VERY DIFFICULT FOR SUAREZ TO TAKE A LESS "LIBERAL" STAND THAN FRANCO ON THIS ISSUE.

4. THE AFRICA ANGLE CUTS BOTH WAYS FOR THE GOS, WHICH IS NOW WINDING UP A MASSIVE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO HEAD OFF, AT THE OAU KHARTOUM SUMMIT IN JULY, ANY FURTHER INDICA- TIONS OF OAU SUPPORT FOR THE CANARIES INDEPENDENDIST GROUP MPAIAC. BERMEJO DOWNPLAYED THE POSSIBILITY THAT CUBA WOULD DO ANY MEANINGFUL SPADEWORK ON SPAIN'S BEHALF WITH ITS PARTICULAR AFRICAN FRIENDS ON THIS ISSUE, BUT ON ONE OF HIS PASSES THROUGH HERE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA DID UNDERTAKE TO MAKE AN EFFORT ALONG THESE LINES. AT THE SAME TIME BERMEJO CALLED "WORRISOME" CUBA'S PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, NOTING THE POTENTIAL FOR DAMAGE TO AFRICAN STABILITY, THE WEST'S CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITION THERE, AND THE SEA LANES ADJOINING. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, HE SAID THIS SUBJECT HAD NOT FIGURED IN CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SPANISH AND CUBAN OFFICIALS THAT HE KNEW OF. EATON

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